

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 12329

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LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AODE, AFSP, MX

SUBJECT: MODE-TREASURY REQUEST TO ADD AN ASSISTANT ATTACHE IN  
MEXICO CITY

REF: STATE 230739

1. AS SOLITCITED REFTEL, MY COMMENTS ON SUBJECT REQUEST ARE AS  
FOLLOWS:

2. I AM KEENLY AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF  
A MEXICAN ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL STABILIZATION PROGRAM--OR THE  
LACK OF ONE, AS NOW SEEMS THE CASE--AND OF THE CORRESPONDING  
REQUIREMENTS FOR ANALYSIS AND REPORTING. HOWEVER, THE GREATEST  
CONTRIBUTION TREASURY COULD MAKE AT THE MOMENT TO OUR CAPACITY  
TO MEET THESE REQUIREMENTS WOULD BE TO PROVIDE US--NOT WITH  
ADDITIONAL MANPOWER--BUT WITH ESSENTIAL INFORMATION. IT IS  
CLEAR THAT TREASURY HAS BEEN NEGOTIATING WITH FINANCIAL EMISSARIES  
FROM MEXICO CITY SINCE BEFORE THE GOM FLOAT/DEVALUATION OF THE  
PESO AT END AUGUST. DESPITE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SUCH NEGOTIA-  
TIONS FOR OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP, TO DATE THIS MISSION IS  
ALMOST TOTALLY UNINFORMED CONCERNING TREASURY NEGOTIATIONS AND  
USG RELATIONSHIP TO MEXICAN ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL STA-  
BILIZATION PROGRAM. OUR LACK OF INFORMATION IS NOT ONLY A  
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POTENTIAL SOURCE OF EMBARRASSMENT BUT IS A CONSIDERABLE

OPERATIONAL HANDICAP: BECAUSE TOP MEXICAN AND VISITING IMF OFFICIALS OBVIOUSLY KNOW FAR MORE ABOUT THE USG POSITION THAN WE DO, WE CANNOT DISCUSS THESE MATTERS WITH THEM AND, AS A RESULT, ARE UNABLE TO REPORT ADEQUATELY AND THOROUGHLY ON ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENTS. IF TREASURY REALLY WISHES TO STRENGTHEN OUR CAPACITY FOR ANALYSIS AND REPORTING, I URGE THEY BEGIN BY PROVIDING US WITH ESSENTIAL INFORMATION. THEY MIGHT ALSO SEND BACK TO POST OUR FINANCIAL ATTACHE, WHO HAS BEEN ON CONSULTATION AT TREASURY ALMOST CONTINUOUSLY SINCE BEFORE THE PESO FLOAT.

3. MISSION SUPPORT CAPABILITIES COULD ABSORB ADDITIONAL POSITION IF TREASURY REQUEST APPROVED. NEVERTHELESS, I BELIEVE THE ADDITION OF AN ASSISTANT ATTACHE TO THE EMBASSY STAFF IS NOT JUSTIFIED AT THIS TIME. BEFORE THE CREATION OF THE POSITION OF FINANCIAL ATTACHE HERE TWO YEARS AGO, THE WORK WAS BEING PERFORMED BY A MIDDLE-GRADE FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR PERFORMING SEVERAL ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONS. FOR THE MOST PART, THE PRESENT ATTACHE HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN ANY ASSIGNMENTS ADDITIONAL TO ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ANALYSIS AND REPORTING. I BELIEVE THAT THE INCUMBENT FINANCIAL ATTACHE HAS BOTH THE OPPORTUNITY AND THE COMPETENCE TO PERFORM THE REQUIRED ANALYSIS AND REPORTING IN THE HIGH QUALITY AND QUANTITY DESIRED.

4. I WOULD REMIND THE DEPARTMENT THAT THE FINANCIAL ATTACHE IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SECTION. INDEED, SINCE THE CREATION OF THE FINANCIAL ATTACHE POSITION HERE IN MEXICO CITY WAS FIRST RAISED IN MID-1972, IT HAS BEEN A CONDITION OF THE CONCURRENCE OF THIS MISSION THAT THERE BE NO "TREASURY UNIT" IN MEXICO AND THAT THE ATTACHE AND HIS SECRETARY OPERATE AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SECTION RATHER THAN AS A SEPARATE OFFICE. AS A RESULT, THE FINANCIAL ATTACHE CAN COUNT ON THE SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE OF THE OTHER OFFICERS IN THE ECONOMIC/NNCOMMERCIAL SECTION.

5. MY RECOMMENDATION IS THAT WE TEST FOR A REASONABLE  
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PERIOD MY CONFIDENCE THAT THESE FUNCTIONS CAN BE PERFORMED WITHOUT ADDITIONAL STAFF. IF, DURING THAT TIME, THE FINANCIAL ATTACHE IS OVERBURDENED BY HIS DUTIES AND THE REQUISITE WORK IS NOT BEING PERFORMED, WE CAN TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT THE QUESTION OF ADDITIONAL STAFF. IF THAT SITUATION SHOULD ARISE, I BELIEVE VERY SERIOUS CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO STRENGTHENING OUR FOREIGN SERVICE STAFF FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF THIS KEY FUNCTION GIVEN THE

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE FOR ECONOMIC/  
COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATION ABROAD.  
THOMPSON

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